



# cuticle detective Inaba

もち

MOCHI



CUTICLE DETECTIVE INABA

# キューティクル探偵 因幡

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## CHAPTER 41: THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE CASE









A  
CHRIST-  
MAS  
PARTY?!



THERE'S  
A PARTY  
ROOM?!

HE  
SAID WE'D  
DECORATE  
THE PARTY  
ROOM IN  
CHRIST-  
MAS  
COLORS.



NICE!  
THAT'S  
OUR  
PARTY  
KING  
FOR  
YOU!

SO WE  
COULD  
HAVE  
A CHRISTMAS  
PARTY THERE.

YEAH.  
OGATA-SAN  
RESERVED MY  
ROOMMATE'S  
WHOLE BAR



WEIRD  
BAR!

B.  
R.



WEIRD  
BAR!

WEIRD  
BAR!

IT'S AN  
L-SHAPE, WITH  
SEATS ONLY AT  
THE COUNTER.

IORI-SAN'S  
BAR IS  
KIND OF  
WEIRD.

LIKE  
THIS













EVERY  
STORM  
ENDS  
EVENTU-  
ALLY.

WELL, CAN'T  
GO HOME  
IN THIS  
BLIZZARD.  
GUESS WE'LL  
ALL HAVE TO  
LIVE HERE.



THERE'S  
MORE  
DAMAGE  
THAN FROM  
ANYTHING  
THE  
MAFIA'S  
DONE!

YOU'RE  
SAYING  
THIS  
IS MY  
FAULT?!

TSK,  
TSK, TSK. SEE  
WHAT HAPPENS  
WHEN YOU SAY  
COLD THINGS,  
KEI?



IT  
ALMOST  
FEELS  
LIKE...

CHATTING  
WITH  
EVERYONE  
BY CANDLE-  
LIGHT ON  
CHRISTMAS  
NIGHT...



THE  
MOOD IS  
COMPLETELY  
OUT OF  
WHACK!

IT FEELS LIKE  
THE REAL SANTA  
WOULD COME  
IF WE BLEW  
OUT ALL THE  
CANDLES.

SHALL WE  
SHARE OUR  
CHRISTMAS  
MEMORIES?

A GHOST  
STORY  
GAME!













WAIT,  
WHAT DID  
I MISS?!

CHOPPED  
IT UP AND  
BURIED  
IT.

AND  
THUS,  
I



IT'S...  
NOTHING  
BIG...  
DOESN'T  
MATTER IF  
YOU DIDN'T  
HEAR IT...

LOOK  
ME IN THE  
EYES!

HIROSHI,  
WHAT DID  
YOUR  
ASSIS-  
TANT DO?

I CAN'T  
SHAKE THE  
FEELING  
THAT I  
MISSED A  
CRUCIAL  
CONFES-  
SION.



YOU'RE  
CLEARLY  
UNCOM-  
FORTABLE  
NOW!

DELI-  
CIOUS.

SHALL WE  
EAT? IT'LL  
WARM US  
UP.

AWFULLY  
COLD IN  
HERE  
NOW.

IS THE  
HEAT HERE  
ELEC-  
TRIC?





WHAT  
THE HECK  
IS THAT?



SO WHAT,  
IS THE  
GOAT IN  
THE RACE?

WELL  
...

LIKE...  
MALL SANTAS,  
PROBABLY?

UH, WHAT'S  
A PROFES-  
SIONAL  
SANTA?

APPARENTLY  
IT'S A SLEIGH  
RACE, OPEN TO  
BOTH PRO AND  
AMATEUR  
SANTAS. THEY  
DELIVER  
PRESENTS.



APPARENTLY  
THE PRESENTS  
ARE WORTH A  
STAGGERING  
AMOUNT BECAUSE  
THE FUNDS FOR  
THE EVENT HAVE  
BEEN SAVED UP  
OVER SO MANY  
YEARS.

THE RACE HASN'T  
HAPPENED IN  
YEARS. I DON'T  
PERSONALLY  
REMEMBER IT  
EVER SNOWING  
IN TOKYO ON  
CHRISTMAS.



ALL YOU  
GET FOR  
"WINNING"  
IS A  
TROPHY.

BUT...

IT'S  
MORE OF  
A CHARITY  
EVENT THAN  
AN ACTUAL  
RACE.



















JINGLE







English Digital Edition  
Chapter 041

Cuticle Detective Inaba  
キューティクル探偵因幡  
Mochi

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First published in Japan in 2010 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.  
Translation ©2015 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.





**CHAPTER 42: THE DON VALENTINO  
JAILBREAK CASE (PART 1)**



WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN,  
YOU SKIPPED  
HOLDING OR  
DETENTION AND SENT  
HIM STRAIGHT TO  
PRISON?!



WHAT  
THE  
HELL?!



ANSWER  
ME,  
SUPERIN-  
TENDENT  
GENERAL!



HOW AM I  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE  
OKAY WITH  
THIS?!

COOL IT,  
KIDOSHI.



BUT EVEN  
HE HAS THE  
RIGHT TO A  
FAIR TRIAL.

THERE'S  
NO DOUBT  
THAT VALEN-  
TINO IS A  
VILLAIN.







ALCAMONE  
ISLAND



THUS,  
WE ARE  
BEHOLDEN  
TO THE  
LAWS OF NO  
COUNTRY!

ALCAMONE  
ISLAND IS  
UNCLAIMED  
BY ANY  
COUNTRY.

THE  
ISLAND'S  
EXISTENCE  
HAS BEEN  
ERASED  
FROM  
HISTORY.



YOU'RE  
NOTHING  
BUT A  
GOAT!

DON'T  
THINK  
YOU'LL BE  
TREATED  
LIKE A  
PERSON  
HERE.



IT IS A  
COMPLETELY  
WILD  
ISLAND!

THERE  
IS NOT A  
SINGLE  
HUMAN  
HERE.

























AKI-YOSHI?  
?

SUFFER  
BURNS,  
YOU  
WILL,  
AKI-  
YOSHI!

HOT,

IS IT  
NOT?!

SHUT  
YOUR TRAP!  
BACKTALK  
IS  
GROUNDS  
FOR PUN-  
ISHMENT,  
TOO!

SPLOOSH



THAT IS A  
TRIVIAL  
MATTER,  
IT IS!

SORRY,  
DON.

I GUESS  
WE BOTH  
WENT  
WITHOUT  
DINNER.



BUT I'M A  
REGULAR  
CHATTERBOX  
WITH YOU  
AROUND,  
DON.

I  
HAVEN'T EVEN  
WANTED TO  
TALK, UNTIL  
NOW.



SORRY.

YOU SHOULD HAVE  
GIVEN A PIECE OF  
YOUR MIND TO THE  
KOALA AND THE  
GUARD, YOU  
SHOULD HAVE!

WHY  
DID YOU  
NOT  
SPEAK?



I'M SO USED  
TO ONLY  
SPEAKING TO  
MY BOSS.



TAKE  
YOU  
WITH  
ME, I  
WILL.

MY FAMILY  
WILL COME  
TO RESCUE  
ME SOON,  
THEY WILL.



THEN I  
SHALL BE  
YOUR NEW  
BOSS, I  
SHALL.

VERY  
WELL.



IF ONLY  
MY BOSS  
WOULD  
TAKE AFTER  
YOU...

YOU  
MUST REALLY  
TRUST  
YOUR  
HENCH-  
MEN.

THEY'RE  
LUCKY.



HE HAS A  
BIG EGO.  
A PRETTY  
TROUBLE-  
SOME  
BOSS.

SO MANY  
PEOPLE  
DEPEND ON  
HIM THAT HE  
DOESN'T  
DEPEND ON  
ANY OF  
US.



THIS BOSS  
OF YOURS  
SOUNDS TO  
BE A MAN OF  
SMALL HEART,  
HE DOES.

HA HA...  
COM-  
PARED  
TO YOU,  
DON,  
MAYBE.



YOU'LL  
EAT ANY-  
THING,  
HUNT?

HA HA.  
YOU  
REALLY  
ATE IT?

WHAT  
HAVE I  
DONE...



MWF  
GOOD  
MORNING,  
DON.

I WOKE TO  
FIND MYSELF  
EATING YOUR  
BOOK, I DID!

I HAVE  
DONE  
WRONG  
BY YOU,  
AKI-  
YOSHI!

HELLO,  
FELLOW!

YOU MUST  
HAVE BEEN  
STARVING  
AFTER  
MISSING  
DINNER  
LAST  
NIGHT.

DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
IT.



YOU LIKE TO READ, YES?



SHA, SHA, SHA! A SNEAKY ONE, YOU ARE.

HEH. I GET THAT A LOT.



YOU ARE A GOOD SOUL, YOU ARE, AKIYOSHI.



THAT'S EVEN MORE STRANGE.



I LIKE THE WAY THEY TASTE, I DO.

A STRANGE ONE, YOU ARE.

I LIKE THE WAY BOOKS SMELL.



HA HA, THAT'S OKAY. THANKS.



YOU'RE A WORKAHOLIC, DON.

I AM SAYING UP POINTS TO REPLACE YOUR BOOK, I AM.



AKI-  
YOSHI.



MY LIFE'S  
BEEN FUN  
SINCE YOU  
SHOWED UP,  
DON.

I ENJOY  
YOUR  
FRIENDSHIP,  
TOO, I DO.



I WILL  
BELIEVE  
IN YOU,  
I WILL.

EVEN  
SHOULD  
YOU NOT  
BELIEVE  
IN ME...



EVEN  
SHOULD  
YOUR  
BOSS  
NOT  
BELIEVE  
IN  
YOU...



YOU  
ARE MY  
FAMILY,  
YOU  
ARE.









I GUESS  
YOU'LL HAVE  
TO WAIT UNTIL  
AFTER THE  
DECHLORINA-  
TION.



AKIYO-  
SHIIIIII!!



B  
E  
E  
E  
P



KNEEL  
THERE.  
DON'T  
MOVE.

NICE,  
COOL  
BREEZE  
UP  
HERE.



WHAT'S  
THIS?  
CAUGHT  
YOURSELF  
A COLD?



COUGH  
COUGH

COUGH



YOU'RE  
RUNNING  
A FEVER,  
TOO.

SHOULD  
WE PUT  
THIS OFF  
FOR  
TODAY?



DID  
YOU  
THINK  
I'D SAY  
THAT?!



YOU'RE  
SLEEPING  
ON THE  
ROOF  
TONIGHT!



YOU'D  
BETTER  
BE  
DEAD  
COME  
MORN-  
ING!



COLD,  
AREN'T  
YOU? THEN  
HAVE A HOT  
SHOWER!

MY  
HIGHEST  
SETTING!  
WATER AT  
BOILING  
POINT! HA!



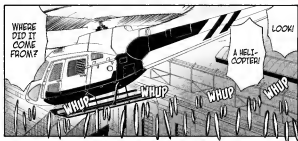
HUH?



SO I  
CAN  
FILL UP  
YOUR  
MOUTH!

LIFT  
YOUR  
HEAD  
NOW









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Chapter 042

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First published in Japan in 2010 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.  
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## CHAPTER 43: THE DON VALENTINO JAILBREAK CASE (PART 2)







WITH  
THE GOAT  
GONE, HE'S  
AN EMPTY  
SHELL!



COME ON  
ALREADY,  
JUST ADMIT  
IT. YOU  
MISS HIM.

IT WAS  
NOTHING  
TO DO  
WITH THE  
GOAT.

LOOK, I  
JUST FELT  
LIKE REIN-  
VENTING  
MYSELF,  
OKAY?





ALCAMORE  
ISLAND





REMOVE  
YOUR-  
SELF!



THE  
SAME  
KIND! THE  
SAME  
KIND!

YOU  
AND I  
ARE OF

THOSE  
WHO  
OBSTRUCT  
THE ROAD  
TO DON

EVERYONE  
LOVES  
DOOOOON!!

I WILL  
DIE! I  
WILL  
DIE!

WITHOUT  
THE  
DON

SHALL  
DIE! DIE!



IT  
LOOKS  
LIKE A  
RICE  
COOKER!



SIZZLE

HEY!  
DON'T  
IGNORE  
ME!

DOOOOON!

A  
LITTLE  
HELP  
HERE?

IT'S  
ME.  
SOUHEI.

AM.

HUNT

AKI-  
YOSHI-  
SANT!

WHAT, YOU  
FORGOT  
THIS  
FACE?

HE'S THE  
VESSEL  
THAT  
CAME  
BEFORE  
YATARO.







HWHAAA? IT'S  
 LIKE MEETING  
 AN AUNT YOU  
 HAVEN'T SEEN  
 IN YEARS!

OH, MY  
 STARS, THAT  
 MEANS I'VE  
 AGED THAT  
 MANY YEARS  
 OLDER,  
 TOO!

YOU USED  
 TO BE SOOO  
 TINY! DO YOU  
 REMEMBER  
 ME?

OH. MY.  
 GOODD! YOU  
 TWO LOOK  
 SO GROWN  
 UP!

SQUEE

SQUEE

OH, MY.  
GOOD! YOU  
TWO LOOK  
SO GROWN  
UP!

**SQUEE**

**SQUEE**

I'M SO SORRY, DEAR. HE CAN BE SUCH A HANDFUL.

NOW ARE THINGS? SOUMEI-SAN HASN'T BEEN TOO SPOILED?

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE CHATTED, ISN'T IT, NATSUKI-CHAN?

WHO ARE YOU, MY MOTHER ?!

TRAIN

THIS IS  
THE FIRST  
TIME WE'VE  
CHATTED.  
ISN'T IT,  
NATSUKI-  
CHAN?

WHO ARE  
YOU, MY  
MOTHER  
31

AND THOSE GLASSES!

YOU'VE GOTTEN SOOO HAND-SOME!

ARE YOU BIGGER THAN ME NOW?

YATARO-KUN, YOU'VE GROWN SO TALL.

JUST LOOK AT YOU!

ARE YOU  
BIGGER  
THAN ME  
NOW?

YATARO-  
KUN,  
YOU'VE  
GROWN  
SO  
TALL.

JUST LOOK  
AT YOU!



THAT'S  
NO  
GOOD.

WE'RE  
BREAKING  
YOU OUT  
OF HERE.



YOU KNOW, IT  
STARTLES YOUR  
VESSELS WHEN  
YOU POSSESS  
THEM WITH NO  
WARNING. DON'T  
DO THAT.

SOUNEI-  
SAN,  
WHEN DID  
YOU...

SORRY,  
IT'S  
HAIL--

WAIT  
A SEC!



I HAVEN'T  
FINISHED  
INVESTIGATING  
THIS PLACE.

I'LL  
STAY  
BEHIND.



YOU  
CAN'T SAY  
THAT FOR  
SURE.

IT'S  
NOT  
HERE.



YOUR BODY  
MIGHT BE  
HIDDEN  
SOMEWHERE  
ON ALCANONE,  
SOUNEI-SAN.

I WANT  
TO STAY  
BEHIND AND  
SEARCH.







DON IS  
SOME-  
WHERE  
NEARBY.

FEEL IT  
OUT.

DON'S  
PRES-  
ENCE.



!!



DOOOON!

IT IS!

THERE!

DID YOU  
TRULY  
NEED TO  
SHOOT  
HIM?!

DID YOU  
NEED TO  
SHOOT  
HIM?

LET'S  
MOVE,  
LOREN-  
ZO!





























ARE YOU  
GOING  
TO  
SHOOT  
ALL OF  
US?

LOWER  
YOUR  
WEAPON



YATAI I'M  
SWITCH-  
ING!



IF HE'S  
NOT, TURN  
YOUR  
GUNS ON  
HIM!

IF THAT  
WOLF IS  
ONE OF  
YOU, THEN  
YES.



AKI-  
YOSHI





TELL  
ME IT  
IS A  
LIE,  
YOU  
MUST.

MY KIND  
AKI-  
YOSHI

YOU ARE  
NOT A  
WOLF,  
YOU ARE  
NOT.

COULD  
NEVER BE A  
WOLF, HE  
COULD  
NOT...



AKI-  
YOSHI...















IT  
SURE  
IS  
PEACE-  
FUL....



THANK  
GOODNESS  
OUR FAVORITE  
HAIR FETTER-  
IST IS BACK.

ALL THE  
MOLTING  
CHEERED  
YOU UP.

WHO KNEW THE  
WORLD COULD BE  
SO HARMONIOUS  
WITH JUST ONE  
LESS GOAT?

SLICKBACK-  
NO HAIR IN  
THE FRONT-



WOWAY,  
THAT'S  
CLOSE!  
YOU'RE  
HOVERING  
TOO CLOSE!

WHAT  
THEY?

A  
HELI-  
COP-  
TER?







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CHAPTER 44:  
THE DETECTIVE AGENCY BUG CASE

WANNA  
PLAY  
IT.

"HAIR  
HOUSE."

I

木  
ムム  
ムム  
ムム



WHAT KIND OF  
CURRICULUM  
WOULD INCLUDE  
THAT? WHAT ARE  
YOU TRYING TO  
TURN OUR YOUNG  
AND PROMISING  
STUDENTS  
INTO?

THEY DON'T  
TEACH IT  
TO YOU IN  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOL?!

WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
TO THE  
JAPANESE  
EDUCATION  
SYSTEM

IT'S  
JUST  
FINE



EH?



HUH?





"CUTICLE-  
MATE"?!  
YOU'RE NOT  
EVEN TRYING  
TO HIDE IT!

PROS GET THEIR  
KICKS BY BRAIDING  
HAIR PUNS INTO  
DAILY CONVERSA-  
TION AND SEEING IF  
ANYONE NOTICES  
WITHOUT HAVING  
TO MULLET OVER.

"H" AND "R" SOUNDS  
NATURALLY BLEND  
WITH THE WORD  
"HAIR," SO YOU  
CAN SWITCH THE  
SOUNDS AROUND.

WHEN AN AMATEUR  
REACHES TOO FAR, IT  
DOESN'T SOUND AS  
BEAUTIFUL, SO WE  
SAY IT'S "A HAIR OUT  
OF PLACE."

DIRECTOR → DIRECT-HAIR  
CLASSMATE → CUTICLEMATE  
CLEAR → CLARIFIER  
COFFEE → CUFFEE



HEI-KUN  
WOULD  
BE  
CURLS-  
KUN.

MY  
HEAD'S  
SPINNING  
NOW.

OKAY ... SO  
BASICALLY,  
IT'S JUST  
WORDPLAY.



"EXTEN-  
SIONS"  
?

VOCAB-  
ULARY  
"EXTEN-  
SIONS."

NOW, A  
BASIC  
WAY TO  
BUILD UP  
YOUR  
HAIR  
HOUSE-  
HOLD IS









GO ALL  
OUT?

YOU WANT  
TO SEE THIS  
DOWN-TO-EARTH  
GUY WHOSE  
ATTENTION TO  
DETAIL NEVER  
FAILS HIM



SHA,  
SHA,  
SHA,  
SHA,  
SHA,  
SHA!



YOUR  
BODY! YOU  
FORGOT  
TO ROUSE  
YOUR  
BODY, YOU  
DID!

WHAT IS IT,  
DON'T YOU  
WOKE  
ME UP.

GAWD,  
I KNOW  
THAT  
ALREADY.

NOAH! YOU  
ARE A GENIUS  
INDEED, YOU  
ARE!





SURE,  
IF YOU  
CHANGE  
THE  
DESIGN.

PEOPLE CARE  
MORE ABOUT  
LISTENING  
IN ON THEIR  
NEIGHBORS  
THAN ABOUT  
SECRET  
INFO.

THIS  
WILL SELL  
LIKE HOT-  
CACKS!



IT HEARS  
THROUGH  
THE WALL.

YOU CAN  
AVOID THE  
RISK THAT  
COMES  
WITH  
SNEAKING  
INTO THE  
TARGET ROOM.

WON'T  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS  
BE SPOTTED  
RIGHT AWAY?



I'LL  
TOTALLY  
LISTEN!

HUH?  
NII-NI'S  
VOICE?

WE ARE  
ABOUT TO  
LISTEN IN ON  
THE WOLF'S  
OFFICE, WE  
ARE.



MAN, IT'S  
ALREADY  
SPRING,  
ISN'T IT?



IF  
THEY'RE  
THIS  
FRIENDLY,  
WHY ARE  
THEY  
ENEMIES?

NII-NO'S  
VOICE,  
NII-NO'S  
VOICE!

I  
HAVEN'T  
HEARD  
YUUTA'S  
VOICE IN  
A WHILE.

HOW'S MY  
MINION  
DOING?



WHICH WOULD  
YOU LIKE,  
SHAMPOO OR  
CLEAR-BRAND  
CONDITION-  
ER?



BUT  
WE DIDN'T  
HAVE ANY  
CARBONATED  
DRINKS  
IN THE  
FRIDGE...

SHAMPOO  
EQUALS  
BUBBLES  
EQUALS  
CARBON-  
ATION?



SHAM-  
POO...



BUT THAT'S  
PRECISELY  
WHY I  
HAVE TO  
CHOOSE...

SHAM-  
POO'S A  
RISKY  
CHOICE.

HE MIGHT  
PUT SOAP  
IN THE  
DRINK...





IT'S  
CLEAR  
SOUP  
MADE BY  
A CONDI-  
TIONED  
HERBI-  
VORE!!



CURL-  
KUN,  
ARE YOU  
OKAY  
WITH  
JUST  
YOUR  
SHAM-  
POO?

SERI-  
OUSLY  
?!

I'LL HAVE  
SOME CON-  
DITIONER,  
TOO.

OOH, THAT  
SMELLS  
GOOD.

THAT'S...  
ONE  
TALENTED  
GIRAFFE!







YOU,  
TEST  
IT.



TO THINK  
THAT THEY  
REGULARLY  
CONSUME  
SHAMPOO  
AND  
CONDI-  
TIONER...

THIS IS  
WHY THEY  
CALL HIM  
THE  
CUTICLE  
DETECTIVE,  
IT IS.

IT'S NOT  
MAKIN'  
THEM  
SICK?



FOR A  
WHILE, THEY'D  
LEAVE NOTES  
WITH CANDY  
LOCATIONS  
WRITTEN ON  
THEM IN  
CODE.

MY OLDER  
BROTHERS  
WOULD GO  
ALL-OUT,  
SENDING ME  
AND MY LITTLE  
SISTER ON  
TREASURE  
HUNTS.

SO, YOU  
SAID YOU  
USED TO  
PLAY WITH  
CODES?



YOU'RE  
ALMOST  
LIKE  
HAIR-  
RELATED  
RELA-  
TIVES.



YOU'VE  
KNOWN  
IORIN FOR  
THAT LONG?

I USED TO  
GET IORI-  
SAN TO  
SOLVE  
THEM FOR  
ME.

IT'S  
BEEN  
ABOUT...  
TEN  
YEARS  
NOW?





THERE ARE FIVE OF US: MY TWIN OLDER BROTHERS, MY OLDER SIS, MY KID SIS, AND ME. IT'S A THICK HOUSE.

YEAH, TOTALLY TUFTY.

HERE'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW, CURLS-KUN. ARE YOU AND YOUR SIBLINGS TUFTY?



YEAH, IT IS. WE WERE KIND OF FAMOUS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

DOES HE MEAN THE DECLINING BIRTH RATE?

THAT'S A RARITY, IN A TIME WHEN GRAY HAIRS ARE ON THE RISE AND SOFT HAIRS ARE ON THE DECLINE.



IT PROBABLY FEELS A LOT LESS CROWDED NOW.

BUT WITH ME AND IZUMI LEAVING THE HOUSE BALD,

THE GOAT'S  
BEEN PRETTY  
DOCILE SINCE  
LEAVING JAIL  
BALD\*, HASN'T  
HE?

AH..

SPEAK-  
ING OF  
BALD...

\*MOVING OUT OF /  
BREAKING OUT OF



MAYBE HE'S  
BEEN EXTRA  
ON GUARD  
BECAUSE  
OF GOING  
BALD?

WAIT  
...

EH  
...?

DON...?

YES, MOST  
DEFINITELY.  
HE'S GONE  
BALD AND  
IT HASN'T  
GROWN  
BACK.

DON  
...

NO,  
I...















WE  
SHOULD  
PLAY  
AGAIN  
SOME-  
TIME.

STILL,  
I SURE  
HAD  
FUN.



OH, GOD!  
IT'S EVEN  
GROSSER  
OFF OF  
THE DOOR!

THAT  
GOAT  
CAN'T  
TAKE A  
HINT.

JUST WHEN  
WE WERE  
HAVING  
FUN PLAY-  
ING HAIR  
HOUSE.



GO  
FOR  
IT!

MIND IF I  
SAY SOME-  
THING TO  
WRAP THIS  
UP?



I'M  
SORRY.  
I'LL  
WORK.

HOW  
MUCH  
FREE  
TIME  
DOES  
THIS  
AGENCY  
HAVE?!



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Chapter 044

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# CHAPTER 45: THE TSUCHINOKO HUNTING CASE







AM I  
RIGHT,  
YUUTA-  
KUN?

IT  
GETS A  
GUY'S  
BLOOD  
PUMP-  
ING.



COME ON.  
IT'S A UMA!  
IT DOESN'T  
GET ANY  
MORE EX-  
CITING  
THAN THAT.

I STILL DON'T  
CARE ABOUT  
SNAKES, BUT I  
DON'T LIKE YOU  
SAYING I'M NOT  
ADVENTUROUS.



THANKS  
FOR YOUR  
HELP  
TODAY.

TAKE  
CARE ON  
YOUR  
WAY  
HOME!

SEE  
YOU.



HOW'S  
THAT  
SOUND,  
YUUTA-  
KUN?

WE COULD  
EAT SOFT  
SERVE AT  
A FARM  
BEFORE  
HEADING  
HOME.



I BET IT  
WOULD  
FEEL  
GREAT UP  
THERE.

MAYBE  
I'LL GO TO  
YATSUGATAKE  
ON MY DAYS  
OFF.







IT IS NOT GREAT! ALL OF YOU ARE BAD GUYS!

ISN'T IT GREAT, WITH JUST US YOUNGSTERS?



DON'T YOU SOUND ENERGETIC... THE HIGHER I GO, THE LESS INCLINED I FEEL....

WE'RE STILL IN THE FLATLANDS AND YOU'RE ALREADY THIS DISINCLINED?!



WHAT'S WITH THIS GROUP?!



IF WE WERE AFTER THAT, THE DON WOULD BE WITH US.

FOR THE CASH REWARD?

WHY DO YOU WANT TO CAPTURE A TSUCHI-NOKO ANYWAY?



IDIOT!

WE'RE A LOUD GROUP, WITH MR. ASSISTANT ALONG!





DON'T  
ASK  
ME.

HOW ARE  
YOU GOING  
TO FIND A  
TSUCHINOKO  
ON A MOUNTAIN  
THIS BIG?



SO  
NOW  
WHAT?



OOH, I CAN'T  
WAIT TO GET  
MY HANDS ON  
THAT NEW  
POT-SON!

I HEARD  
IT LIKES  
JAPANESE  
SAKE!  
LET'S GET  
A SAKE  
TRAP!

THOSE TWO  
FORCED US  
TO COME  
ALONG, TOO,  
YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE  
SOME-  
THING,  
ALL  
RIGHT.



YOU CAN  
SEE THE  
STARS SO  
CLEARLY,  
TOO...



I'VE  
NEVER BEEN  
ANYWHERE  
THIS  
QUIET.

WOW  
...





HEY,  
DON'T  
USE UP  
MY  
DATA  
PLAN!

WHAT  
IS IT,  
SOME  
OLD  
MANT?

I CAN'T FIND  
MUCH INFO.  
ONLY THAT IT  
LIKES SAKE  
AND BAKED  
CUTTLEFISH.  
STUFF LIKE  
THAT.



MM...



I'M  
NOT JUST  
GOING  
TO GO  
ALONG  
WITH THIS  
QUIETLY.

I DON'T  
CARE  
ABOUT THIS  
TSUCHINOKO,  
EITHER.

NO,  
DUH!

NOW,  
THEN. JUST  
TO DOUBLE  
CHECK, YOU  
WANT TO GO  
HOME, DON'T  
YOU?



WITHOUT  
THE GIRLS  
FINDING  
OUT,  
NATURALLY.

WE'LL CATCH AN  
ORDINARY SNAKE,  
AND FEED IT  
SOMETHING SO  
THAT IT COULD  
PASS AS A  
TSUCHINOKO.



WE CAN  
USE THIS  
TO OUR  
ADVANTAGE.

ONE THEORY ABOUT  
THE TSUCHINOKO IS  
THAT IT'S ACTUALLY AN  
ORDINARY SNAKE THAT  
SIMPLY LOOKS GIANT  
FROM SWALLOWING  
LARGE PREY.



THIS IS  
A SECRET  
BETWEEN THE  
THREE OF US  
HERE IN THE  
BOYS' TENT.



THREE  
OF  
US  
HERE  
...?



THERE  
ARE  
ONLY  
...



YUUTA-KUN  
WENT INTO THE  
GIRLS' TENT  
WITHOUT EVEN  
SKIPPING A  
BEAT!

DASH







YUP.  
LET'S  
IGNORE  
IT.

WE CAN'T  
HANDLE BEL-  
LIGERENCE  
FROM THAT  
THING!

NODE!  
IT'S A BELLI-  
GERENT  
DRUM!



IT'S  
GULPING  
DOWN THE  
SAKE IN  
THEIR TRAP.

SHOULD  
WE GO  
AFTER IT  
ONCE  
IT'S  
DRUNK?



LOOKY!  
IT'S A  
TSUCHI-  
NOKO!

IDIOT  
!!!!



EH, IT  
WOULD BE  
YATARO  
FIGHTING  
IT,  
ANYWAY.

WE  
COULDN'T  
FIGHT  
THAT. NO  
WAY.



AND WHAT THE  
HECK ARE YOU  
DOING WEASEL-  
ING YOUR WAY  
INTO THE GIRL  
TENT, YUUTA-KUN?!

ARE  
YOU  
OKAY  
?!



COLLAPSE

THE  
GIRL  
TENT!



HIS KILL  
SWITCH  
TURNED  
ON!

LOOKS LIKE  
THERE'S A  
SNAKE SKIN  
WALLET IN MY  
FUTURE.



GET IT!  
DON'T HOLD  
BACK!

YOU  
WANT A  
FIGHT?

SSSSSS



**I KNOW  
THOSE  
SHAPES  
!!!!**

OH, NOES!  
THEY'LL GET  
DIGESTED!

I WANT TO OPEN  
IT UP, SO WE  
COULDN'T WORK  
TOGETHER,  
COULD WE?

THE DON  
MUST BE  
AFTER THE  
REWARD.

THE  
GOAT  
WAS  
HERE,  
TOO?









IT  
BUFFED  
UP!

BOOF



GOT-  
CHU!

WE'LL HAVE  
TO INJECT THE  
ANESTHETIC  
DIRECTLY!  
GO, NATSU  
CHICK!



DON'T  
SAY THAT  
YOUR-  
SELF!

DON'T  
LET IT  
GET  
YOU  
DOWN!

TWINKLE

きゅん☆













I'M WILLING TO BET NOAH HERE COULD MAKE YOU A LINE OF PRODUCTS THAT WOULD MAKE YOU MORE THAN THE REWARD AMOUNT.

SOME COSMETIC PRODUCTS USE SNAKE VENOM, TOO.

SINCE NO ONE ELSE HAS IT, YOU COULD NAME ANY PRICE YOU WANT FOR IT, COULDN'T YOU?

YOU COULD HAVE A MONOPOLY ON TSUCHI-NOKO VENOM.

IF PEOPLE STILL THINK IT'S A FICTIONAL CREATURE, THEY'D SUSPECT YOU OF SCAMMING THEM AND NOT BUY ANYTHING.

BUT YOU'D NEED TO KEEP THE TSUCHINOKO ALIVE HERE, TO PROVE THAT IT EXISTS.



YOU'RE INCREDIBLE, DON.

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A FORTUNE WITH YOUR MONOPOLY ON THE TSUCHINOKO MARKET.





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Chapter 045

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**CHAPTER 46: THE LOCKED DOWN HOUSE BREAK-IN CASE**



SECURITY  
CONSULTING?



NICE  
TO  
MEET  
YOU.

MY  
NAME IS  
ORUTOMI  
CHIYO.



MY GRAND-  
DAUGHTER'S  
PARENTS WILL  
BE OVERSEAS  
FOR A SPELL.

I'M  
WORRIED  
ABOUT HER  
BEING  
HOME  
ALONE.



SHE  
REALLY  
IS. JUST  
LIKE  
STELLA.

ISN'T SHE  
CUTE?



NO  
FIGHTING!

EVERYONE'S  
CUTE!

WE'RE  
SORRY.



NO, NO, NO.  
STELLA TAKES  
THE CAKE IN  
EVERY AREA.

NO, NO.  
CHIYO IS  
CUTER.

NO, NO, NO.









YES!!!!

IF YOU CAN  
BREAK INTO THE  
HOUSE, I'LL GO  
STAY WITH MY  
GRANDFATHER.



YOU WANT  
ME TO PLAY  
THIEF?



THEN  
PROVE  
IT.



YEAH, BUT  
I'D NEED TO  
DO A LOT  
OF PREPA-  
RATIONS.

I WON'T BE  
UPSET IF YOU  
BREAK ANY  
WINDOWS. DON'T  
HOLD ANYTHING  
BACK.

I'LL  
WRITE A  
CONTRACT  
PROMIS-  
ING THAT I  
WON'T ASK  
FOR ANY  
RESTITU-  
TION.



WAIT HUH?  
A SEC.

I'LL PAY  
YOUR EX-  
PENSES,  
AND GIVE  
YOU A  
BONUS,  
TOO.



YOU'RE JUST USING THAT AS AN EXCUSE TO GET OUT OF THIS, AREN'T YOU?!

UNACCEPTABLE! WE'RE GIVING YOU A THANK YOU GIFT!

I'M SORRY!



I'M NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE ANY SIDE JOBS, AND I'M CLEAN AS A WHISTLE. I CAN'T ACCEPT ANY MONEY.

CAN'T.

3'1"  
3'3"  
3'1"  
/



I-I WILL, OKAY?

JEEZ, I CAN'T TURN YOU AWAY.

PLEASE DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER!

MY GRANDPA-GRAND-DAUGHTER TIME DEPENDS ON THIS!

ANNING

ANNING



YESSSS!

STELLA, CAN YOU TAKE A STANDBY NAP AT AZUSA-CHAN'S HOUSE IN THE MEANTIME?

AZUSA



THEY'RE GOOD FRIENDS OF MINE.

OKAY, I'LL HIRE THE INABA DETECTIVE AGENCY TO DO IT.



I  
SUPPOSE  
IT'S MEANT  
TO BE A  
PRESENT  
FOR ME.

BUT IT'S  
SO BIG  
AND WEIRD.  
SUCH A  
BOTHER.



IT CAME  
TODAY.  
FROM MY  
FATHER.

NICE  
WOODEN  
STATUE, BY  
THE WAY.

ALL RIGHT,  
I'LL GO  
MAKE THE  
PREPARA-  
TIONS.



CHIYO-  
CHAN.

DO YOU  
NOT LIKE  
YOUR  
GRAND-  
PA?



BUT I DON'T  
WANT THEM  
TO THINK  
THAT I CAN'T  
DO ANYTHING  
ON MY OWN.

THAT'S  
NOT IT.



HAVE  
YOUR  
THINGS  
PACKED.

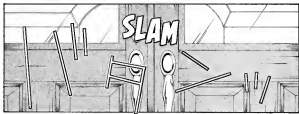
I'M  
GLAD  
TO  
HEAR  
THAT.



STOP  
PAT-  
TING  
ME!

NO ONE  
THINKS  
THAT.







OH, MY  
GOODNESS.  
SO MOTI-  
VATED!

GOODNESS  
GRACIOUS...  
WHAT ARE WE  
GOING TO  
DO WITH  
YOU, OGATA-  
SAN?

OKAY,  
WE'RE  
GOING IN.  
ARE YOU  
READY?

NIGHTTIME.

COME  
IN...  
IF YOU  
CAN!

WHY ARE  
YOU  
WARNING  
ME?



AHA.  
FOUND IT.

RIGHT  
OVER  
THERE.



EH?!



YOU LOSE  
IF THE  
SECURITY  
COMPANY  
GETS AN  
ALERT.

DO  
TRY NOT  
TO LET  
YOUR  
FACES BE  
SEEN, LIKE  
PROPER  
THIEVES.



POINTED A  
LASER INTO  
THE CAMERA,  
THAT'S ALL.

WHAT  
DID  
YOU  
DO?

WHEN HIT  
WITH A STRONG  
LIGHT, THE  
IMAGE SHOULD  
BE BLANDED  
OUT.



WHAT  
ABOUT  
THE GUARD  
DOGS?

PO  
PERK



WH...  
OGATA-  
SANT

HOP









NOW,  
WAIT  
JUST A  
SECOND.









DISC CYLINDER	PIN CYLINDER	ROTARY DISC TUMBLER	PEMBLE PIN CYLINDER
			
ONE S-SHAPE IN THE KEYHOLE	ZIGZAG ON ONE SIDE ONLY	W-SHAPED KEYHOLE	DEPRESSIONS IN THE KEY
			
<div> <div>LOW</div> <div>ESTIMATION OF SECURITY LEVEL</div> <div>HIGH</div> </div>			

THAT  
WON'T END  
WELL...

HERE'S  
A DIAGRAM.

GEN,  
NOW I'M  
WORRIED.

BUT  
LOTS OF  
PLACES  
STILL USE  
THEM.

THOSE ARE  
PICKED SO  
OFTEN THAT  
THEY DON'T  
EVEN MAKE  
THEM ANY-  
MORE.

IT'S  
JUST BE  
ASKING  
TO BE  
PICKED.

SAY THE  
FRONT DOOR  
HAD A DISC  
CYLINDER  
LOCK.

WHAT KIND  
OF LOCK  
DOES OUR  
PLACE  
HAVE  
AGAIN...?





NOW  
I'M EVEN  
MORE  
WORRIED!

WHY DO  
ALL OF YOU  
KNOW MORE  
ABOUT MY  
FRONT DOOR'S  
LOCK THAN  
ME?!

IF I  
RECALL  
CORRECTLY,  
THEY'RE  
THE MUSH-  
ROOM  
PINS.

WITH  
ANTI-  
PICKING  
PINS.

KEI-CHAN'S  
APARTMENT?  
A PIN  
CYLINDER  
LOCK.

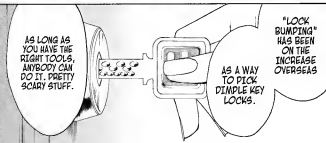


THIS IS A  
SPECIAL KEY  
CALLED A  
"BUMP KEY."

YOU  
HAVE A  
DUPLI-  
CATE  
KEY?!



NOW  
THEN,  
LET'S  
SEE IF  
IT'LL  
OPEN  
FOR US.



AS LONG AS  
YOU HAVE THE  
RIGHT TOOLS,  
ANYBODY CAN  
DO IT. PRETTY  
SCARY STUFF.

AS A WAY  
TO PICK  
DIMPLE KEY  
LOCKS.

"LOCK  
BUMPING"  
HAS BEEN  
ON THE  
INCREASE  
OVERSEAS







WOLF!

GEH!



GOAT!

GAH!



"FYI: NOT ONLY HAS IT BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE LAST CASE ABOUT CAPTURING THE GOAT, THEY DIDN'T MEET AT ALL IN THE LAST CHAPTER."

IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN FOREVER!



HOW THE HECK DID YOU GET IN?!



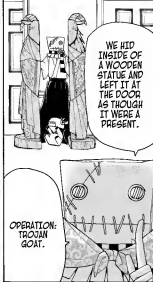
WE'VE TAKEN EVERYTHING VALUABLE FOR OURSELVES.

WE HEARD THAT THERE WAS A YOUNG GIRL HOME ALONE IN A MANSION AND CAME TO PLUNDER IT, WE DID.



GET WITH  
THE TIMES,  
HISTORY  
LOVERS!

THEN WHAT  
WAS ALL OUR  
EFFORT  
AGAINST HER  
HIGH-TECH  
SECURITY  
FOR?!



WE HID  
INSIDE OF  
A WOODEN  
STATUE AND  
LEFT IT AT  
THE DOOR  
AS THOUGH  
IT WERE A  
PRESENT.

OPERATION:  
TROJAN  
GOAT.



HELP!

THERE IS  
NOTHING  
YOU CAN  
DO.

THE CHILD  
IS OUR  
HOSTAGE,  
SHE IS.













WHEN,  
I'M  
BUSHED.

AN-  
OTHER  
CASE  
IN THE  
RAIL!



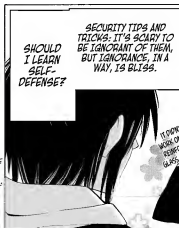
NOW WE  
CAN REST  
EASY.

I  
GUESS HER  
GRANDDAD  
CAME FOR  
HER.



DID YOU  
HAVE THEM  
IN CASE  
WE NEEDED  
TO  
ESCAPE?

OH, YEAH. WE  
WERE LUCKY  
YOU HAD  
THOSE FIRE-  
CRACKERS,  
YUTA-KUN.



SHOULD  
I LEARN  
SELF-  
DEFENSE?

SECURITY TIPS AND  
TRICKS: IT'S SCARY TO  
BE IGNORANT OF THEM,  
BUT IGNORANCE, IN A  
WAY, IS BLISS.



OH, THERE'S THIS  
REALLY EASY WAY  
OF BREAKING  
GLASS WITH SECU-  
RITY FILM APPLIED  
TO IT, WITH JUST  
ONE SET OF BANG  
SNAPS.

IT DIDN'T  
WORK ON THE  
REINFORCED  
GLASS, THOUGH

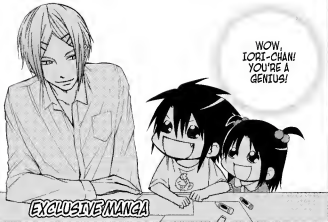
YOU NEED  
TAPE AND  
CLAY

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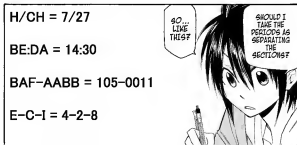




H/CH.BE:DA.BAF-AABB.E-C-I.  
HINT: BBA=POLICE













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CUTICULAR!





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THIS TIME,  
THE CAST  
GOES WILD  
ON THE  
CHAOTIC  
FORMER  
STAGE OF  
NINJAPAN!



WE'RE HERE AT THE  
STUDIO, WHERE  
THE CUTICLE  
DETECTIVE  
INABA DRAMA  
CD RECORDING  
SESSIONS  
GO DOWN!

DRAMA CD RECORDING STUDIO REPORT



LET YOUR EARS  
BE IMPRESSED  
BY THE FLUID  
PERFORMANCE  
OF SEKI  
TOMOKAZU-  
SAMA AS MEI

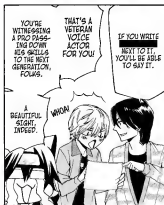


ME,  
MYSELF,  
AND I!

THE STAR  
OF THE CD  
IS, OF  
COURSE,  
NO!!

I  
PROTAG-  
ONIST!











*AUTHOR COMMENT ON COVER*



MOCHI

FOR A LONG TIME... I LOVE

I BLAME YOURSELF FOR IT MOCHI

FOR IT MOCHI I LOVE

TO SEE HIM AGAIN

[HTTP://MOCHI.COM/](http://mochi.com/)

## EXTRA MANGA 1

### THE WOLF FAMILY



\*EXTRA MANGA DONE ON COMIC RELEASE

## EXTRA MANGA 2

### THE WOLF FAMILY



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